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processes proposed up to the present time do not fulfill the practical requirements of public disinfection."

"In any case the use of formic aldehyd can not do away with the necessity of sending to the steam chamber linen, clothes, mattresses, carpets, and all other objects that should be disinfected by being submitted to the action of steam under pressure." So we see the question is by no means settled in this country, although having arrived at diametrically opposite results each party seems to be convinced that it is in the right and each is largely resting on its arms.

In closing, it might be interesting to note that some weeks ago in a lecture at the Pasteur Institute on the subject of disinfectants, Professor Roux said in substance :

"Formaldehyd gas, while having slight penetrating power is, when properly employed, a practically perfect surface disinfectant, and in a room denuded of fabrics, etc., this is all we require. In all cases it is far superior to the method now employed by the municipal authorities, namely, that of using a fine spray of a solution of bichloride.

It has been shown that the spaces on the walls, etc., between the various particles of the solution thus projected are, compared with the size of a bacillus, simply enormous, so such a process can have absolutely no disinfecting power."

Marseilles quarantines against Cape Town on account of plague.

PARIS, February 15, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to report that a circular has been issued by the minister of the interior to the sanitary authorities at the port of Marseilles, directing them to consider Cape Town and neighboring ports as infected with plague, and to put in force all the precautionary measures prescribed by the regulations for vessels coming from these ports.

Respectfully,

S. B. GRUBBS,

Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

GERMANY.

Report from Berlin—Plague and cholera news.

BERLIN, GERMANY, February 2, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following information obtained from the imperial health office.

* * * * *

EGYPT.—A case of plague occurred on the steamer *Senegal* of the Messageries Maritimes, which arrived in Alexandria from Smyrna and Beirut on January 11. After undergoing the prescribed disinfection the steamer was placed under quarantine, but on the evening of January 11 proceeded to Marseilles. The sick man, as well as those travelers whose destination was Egypt, were conveyed to the quarantine hospital.

BRITISH EAST INDIA.—In the city of Bombay, during the week ended December 15, 112 new cases of plague were reported. Of the 826 deaths during this week and the 913 deaths in the week ended December 22, inclusive of those dying of suspected plague, 285 and 343, respectively, resulted from plague. Eighty-one and 111, respectively, of these are demonstrated to be deaths from plague, that is to say more than reported in the two previous weeks.

In the Presidency of Bombay there occurred during the week ended December 21, 593 new cases and 408 deaths from plague, that is to say, 23 more cases than in the foregoing week.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—On December 25 a coolie, who had arrived by ship from Amoy and Swatow, but had not touched at Hongkong, died of plague at Singapore. The ship was sent immediately to the quarantine station. The other 400 coolies on board proved to be in good health.

JAPAN.—In Osaka, since the new outbreak of plague, a total number of 64 cases with 51 deaths from plague had been reported up to December 10. The city authorities there have granted a specific sum for the purpose of fighting the plague, and have appointed a special physician.

No further cases of plague occurred in Kobe during the month of November. The fishing village of Yuafa, which is in the neighboring district of Wakayama, about 60 kilometers distant from Osaka, was chiefly infected with plague. The village has constant communication with this city and therefore all arrivals are examined.

Réunion.—From January 3 to January 10, 5 new cases of plague have occurred on the island, of which 2 terminated fatally.

Argentine.—According to a bulletin of December 24, there have been no further cases of plague in Tucuman or in San Nicholas. The bacteriological examinations of the last reported cases have given no indication of plague.

Queensland.—According to the reports of the central sanitary authorities there occurred during the week ended December 1, 5 cases of plague (2 in Brisbane and 3 in Thursday Island) and during the following week 1 case in Brisbane.

Cholera.

British East India.—In Calcutta 49 persons died of cholera during the period from December 16 to December 22.

Straits Settlements.—In Singapore there occurred during the period from December 15 to December 25, 36 deaths from cholera. There were also many deaths from fever, consumption, and beriberi. In the second half of the month of December, however, there was an improvement in the general health.

Respectfully,

JOSEPH B. GREENE,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Plague at Cape Town.

BERLIN, GERMANY, *February 11, 1901.*

[Clipping from the Vossische Zeitung, Berlin, February 9, 1901. Translated and sent by P. A. Surg. J. B. Greene.]

LONDON, ENGLAND, *February 8, 1901.*

A Reuter's dispatch from Cape Town, of to-day's date, confirms the report that 2 cases of bubonic plague have occurred there. It is not believed, however, that the outbreak of the disease is a serious one.